Reflection Questions Answers

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**Why is the knowledge on the early civilizations uncertain?**

There are multiple reasons why historians aren’t positive about information on the early civilizations. One reason is they have to make assumptions based on archeological finds. For example, they base the assumption that the Indus Valley’s government was well organized on the checkerboard pattern and architecture. Another reason is because history was passed down based on oral traditions, Vedas. These were written down later, however, they may have changed over the years from being passed down.

**How did the decline of the Indus Valley help the Aryans? (make sure to include different parts of the decline.)**

The decline of the Indus Valley left the citizen vulnerable. They suffered through natural disasters which made them weak and easy to attack. Some town in the Indus Valley were abandoned, leaving them open. The Aryans could easily have taken these towns and rebuilt them on their foundations. With their improved technology from the Middle East this may have been possible. Also, the towns were crumbling which would have left them vulnerable to attacks from the improved weaponry of the Aryans.

**Which civilization contributed more to India’s culture today? (support answer)**

The Aryan culture has contributed more to India today than the Indus Valley Civilization. The Indus Valley Civilizations contributed ideas to the Aryan culture but ultimately it was the Aryan’s traditions that were kept alive. The Vedas, Aryans oral traditions, are still used in Indian religious life. They are used in special ceremonies such as weddings and funerals. Also the Varna, the Aryans class system, evolved into a more rigid caste system which has effect India. Finally the Aryans overtook and adapted the Indus Valley traditions meaning whatever ideas the Indus Valley Civilization had got filtered through the Aryan’s culture.